

Message Text

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64

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 DIWY-01

MMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 OIC-02 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /106 W

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R 022006Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 164

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 1469

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, SHUM, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 58TH ECOSOC: SOCIAL COMMITTEE--DRAFT RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNICATIONS AND STATUS OF WOMEN, ITEM 8

REF: STATE 098637

1. LAST ITEM OF BUSINESS ON SOCIAL COMITE AGENDA WAS SUBJECT RES DRAFTED BY NETHERLANDS AND COSPONSORED BY BELGIUM, COLOMBIA AND MEXICO. COMITE ALSO HAD BEFORE IT SOVIET AMENDMENTS DESIGNED TO ANNUL INTENT OF L.685 BY REAFFIRMING DECISION OF COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO STATUS OF WOMEN TO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (HRC) UNDER PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY RES 1503(XLIII).

2. OPENING OF MEETING WAS POSTPONED AS COSPONSORS AND SOVIETS WORKED OUT COMPROMISE. THIS TOOK FORM OF FOLLOWING DECISION, WHICH ON PROPOSAL OF CHAIRMAN WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT A VOTE.

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

"HAVING CONSIDERED THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
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STATUS OF WOMEN, TAKEN AT ITS 626TH MEETING RELATING TO COMMUNICA-

TIONS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE EXPLANATORY NOTE BY THE SYG (E/5628),

"INVITES THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY TO CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH COMMUNICATIONS OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE NOTE OF THE SYG AND THE DISCUSSION IN THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AT ITS 58TH SESSION AND TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AT ITS 62D SESSION."

3. COMMENT. ABILITY OF NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM TO OBTAIN TWO THIRD WORLD COSPONSORS WAS KEY FACTOR IN ENABLING THEM TO PREVENT SOVIETS FROM DEFEATING PURPOSE OF THEIR RES. EGYPTIAN REP BADAWI ACTED AS BROKER BETWEEN COSPONSORS AND SOVIETS THEREBY REPEATING ACTIVE AND GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE HE HAS PLAYED AT THIS SESSION. EVEN AMONG PROPONENTS OF DRAFT RES THERE WAS FEELING THAT ECOSOC SHOULD NOT SECOND-GUESS CSW AS IT DID IN ORIGINAL NETHERLANDS DRAFT AND THAT IT SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND INVITING CSW TO CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF CONTINUING TO DEAL WITH COMMUNICATIONS ITSELF, INSTEAD OF LEAVING THAT UP TO HRC. US DEL AGREES THAT TONE OF ORIGINAL DRAFT MIGHT WELL HAVE PROVEN COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE WHEN CSW CONVENED AGAIN AND THAT THIS DRAFT DECISION IS MORE TACTFUL WAY TO HANDLE ISSUE. CSW IS TO REPORT TO ECOSOC AT 62D, RATHER THAN 60TH SESSION BECAUSE ACCORDING TO SECT, CSW WILL CONVENE IN AUTUMN OF 1976, RATHER THAN IN JANUARY AS IT DID IN 1974. SOVIETS, WHO SELDOM MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESTRICT ROLE OF UN IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD NO MATTER HOW MINOR THAT ROLE MAY BE, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TRY TO CLOSE DOOR THIS ECOSOC DECISION HAS OPENED UP WHEN CSW CONVENES AGAIN
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, WOMEN, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN01469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750155-0573
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750584/aaaaczgn.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 098637
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 58TH ECOSOC: SOCIAL COMMITTEE--DRAFT RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNICATIONS AND STATUS OF WOMEN, ITEM 8
TAGS: SGEN, SHUM, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006